

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of Shailen P. Bhatt, of Michigan, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bhatt nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EVELYN BRANDT THOMAS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, since 1963, the State Journal-Register, the oldest newspaper in Illinois, has awarded its First Citizen Award to residents of Springfield who have selflessly given their time and resources to help and serve others. This year, the State Journal-Register has selected a central Illinois legend to receive its 2022 First Citizen Award: businesswoman and philanthropist, Evelyn Brandt Thomas.

If you ask Evelyn Brandt Thomas how she is doing, she often replies, "Better than I deserve." She is a true pioneer with deep roots in central Illinois. Evelyn was born in 1923 on a farm in Salisbury Township, just outside of Pleasant Plains. Her father, Albert Brandt, raised horses for the first 12 years of her life. And as life on a farm goes, Evelyn had to do it all. She would handle tractors, gather eggs, and milk the cows, all without the luxuries of electricity or indoor plumbing.

She was ahead of her time. Evelyn graduated from Springfield High School at just 16 years old and went on to receive a degree in accounting from Illinois Business College, an impressive feat at a time when women had few higher education opportunities and even fewer prospects in the fields of business and accounting.

After several years of working in advertising, in the early 1950s, Evelyn and her younger brother, Glen—"GB"—for short—founded Brandt Fertilizer, a company that sold liquid fertilizer to central Illinois farms. At the time, dry fertilizer dominated the local market, but it also would come in heavy, 50-lb. bags that farmers would have to haul all across the farm. GB and Evelyn recognized a need and seized on the opportunity. Their original motto was, "All You Have to Do is Lift the Hose." GB relied on his "gift of gab" going farm-to-farm selling this new product to

make farmers lives easier while Evelyn handled the financials, which she watched like a hawk. Evelyn and GB were quite the duo, building their business on the principles of honesty and hard work.

Their principles paid off. What started as a liquid fertilizer company operating out of a truck and an office has now grown into BRANDT Consolidated, Inc., a successful agricultural business that sells products in more than 45 countries, has several hundred employees, and generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue each year. And it is still a family business. GB's son and Evelyn's nephew, Rick Brandt, has served as CEO and president since 1995.

But Evelyn's long list of accomplishments goes far beyond profits and sales. Over the years, she has pursued a number of philanthropic projects and given back to central Illinois and the region. She has been a champion of education—especially in encouraging more women to explore careers in agriculture—supporting a variety of institutions of higher learning, like the University of Illinois Springfield and Lincoln Land Community College, as well as nonprofits like the Education Center for the Visually Impaired. Evelyn has established scholarships at the University of Illinois Springfield—UIS—and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She continues to support 4-H, the youth development nonprofit organization where she met her late husband Gordon, and the Future Farmers of America—an organization that prepares young people to be leaders in business and agriculture.

In her work with the Education Center for the Visually Impaired, Evelyn has sought to improve the quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired. In doing so, she has helped to provide education, training, and development opportunities through services and programs.

For her decades of work, Evelyn has received numerous awards. She received the ATHENA International Award presented by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce in 2009, a Doctor of Humane Letters award from UIS in 2014, and was inducted into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame in 2020.

I have also been glad to get to know Evelyn's family over the years. In 2019, I worked with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to help the Brandt family secure the specialized World War II license plate, "GB," in honor of his military service. GB passed away in June 2020 at the age of 94. In January 2020, we held a press event at BRANDT Consolidated, Inc., to celebrate the benefits of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement for the agriculture production industry and the Brandt family's global leadership.

How is Evelyn doing? I would say she is doing pretty well for a farm girl from central Illinois. And she deserves it. Evelyn and her family are a true Illinois success story. I want to thank

Evelyn for her many years of service to the central Illinois community and congratulate her for receiving the State Journal-Register's 2022 First Citizen Award. Illinois is grateful for all of her service and sacrifice.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0U-22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-49 of July 21, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0U-22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-49; Date: July 21, 2022; Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On July 21, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 22-49, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of eighty (80) Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles—Extended Range (JASSM-ER) (AGM-158B with telemetry kits and/or AGM-158B-2 configurations). Also included were missile containers and support equipment; JASSM training missiles; weapon system support; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; integration and test support and equipment; personnel training; software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$235 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$157 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following MDE items: one (1) AGM-158 Instrumented Test Vehicle (ITV); two (2) JASSM AGM-158 Separation Test Vehicles (STV); two (2) JASSM Jettison Test Vehicles (JTV); and two (2) JASSM AGM-158 Mass Simulation Vehicles (MSV). Also included are non-MDE KGV-135A embedded encryption modules; munition telemetry kits; and additional classified test equipment. The estimated total value of the additional items is \$26 million. The total estimated MDE value will increase by \$17 million to \$174 million, resulting in an estimated total case value of \$261 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will support Australia's capability to test advanced, long-range strike systems for employment from its Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) air platforms including, but not limited to, the F/A-18F Super Hornet and F-35A Lightning II.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AGM-158 Instrumented Test Vehicle (ITV) is a flight certification vehicle equipped with an intelligent Test Instrumentation Kit (iTik). The ITV collects airworthiness data to ensure safe separation of the munition from the aircraft.

The JASSM AGM-158 Separation Test Vehicle (STV), equipped with an intelligent Test Instrumentation Kit (iTik), collects separation data during airworthiness/flight certification.

The JASSM Jettison Test Vehicle (JTV) is used during the airworthiness data collection process to ensure safe jettison of the munition from the aircraft. It provides pilot captive-carry training with recording capability for post-release data analysis.

The JASSM AGM-158 Mass Simulation Vehicle (MSV) is a test missile used in support of missile load training and pilot captive-carry training.

The KGV-135A is a high-speed, general purpose encryptor/decryptor module used for wide-band data encryption.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2022.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 378 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for Mia Roberts Perez, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 378, PN2367.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 379 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea

on the motion to invoke cloture on Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 379, PN2366.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 380 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 380, PN2366.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 381 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for John Frank Murphy, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 381, PN2368.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 382. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, rollcall vote No. 382, PN2438.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 383. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation for Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, rollcall vote No. 383, PN2266.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on November 30, 2022, I missed rollcall vote No. 363 while attending a meeting and event at the Department of the Interior announcing the future designation of a new National Monument in Nevada. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on vote No. 363, cloture on the nomination of Camille L. Velez-Rive to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive calendar No. 1188, Chrissie C. Latimore, of South Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years; No. 1196, Peter D. Leary, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years; No. 1197, McLain J. Schneider, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years; No. 1199, David C. Davis, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for

the term of four years; No. 1251, Terry J. Burgin, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years; and No. 1252, Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

TRIBUTE TO DUNCAN WYSE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I often speak on the Senate floor about what I call the "Oregon Way." It is about Oregonians of all backgrounds setting aside partisan politics and coming together to build on what makes our State such a wonderful place to live, work, raise a family, and run a business.

I don't know of anybody who exemplifies and believes in the Oregon Way more than my friend Duncan Wyse. Duncan is the head of the Oregon Business Council and the man behind the Oregon Economic Leadership Summit, which is meeting for the 20th year in just a few days. So on this 20th anniversary, it is my great pleasure to share a few thoughts about my friend Duncan and all the good he has done over the years for the State we both love.

Duncan has always been a humble guy. He has never been the kind to seek out the spotlight. He will put in all the hard work behind the scenes if it pays off for Oregon and creates new opportunities for people to get ahead. He has been incredibly successful in that.

A little bit about the origin of the Leadership Summit. It was back in the recession of the early 2000s. Oregon's economy, like a lot of the country, was down in the dumps. The tech bubble had popped. Unemployment was up. The September 11, 2001, attacks had shaken the country to its core. Between State and local officials, Members of Congress, business and community leaders, a lot of us were looking at every opportunity to get Oregon's economy growing again.

Duncan had the idea that what we needed to do was bring all those people together at one big event. Get focused. Zero in on the solutions that would be the most impactful and longest lasting for businesses and workers all across the State. He and I got in touch, and I told him, Count me in. I will be your co-founder, I will bring then-Senator Gordon Smith along, and I will do whatever I need to do to make this a success.

Nobody had tried this before. I would be blowing smoke if I said we were confident about it the entire time. At a few points early on, we probably doubted whether we would get enough people to field a competitive football game. The idea was, we were hoping for a decent crowd with at least one representative from each of Oregon's 36 counties. But in the end, that first summit brought together upward of 1,000 people from all over the State.